

Sunday, Jul 31, 2022

Dizzy yet?

Do you ever feel like the world is spinning out of control? You're not alone: Pope Francis has called this effect of modern culture "rapidification." It's not just you: Things really are happening, progressing, and becoming obsolete faster—including what many of us do for a living. We're not unlike the tragic lamplighter in Catholic author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic, *The Little Prince*. The lamplighter's planet is turning faster, but he still operates at the same mortal speed. He must now respond to 1,440 sunsets where there used to be just one. Now more than ever, we need to honor our Sabbaths and take our rest.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21 (114). *"For what profit comes to [us] from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which [we have] labored under the sun?"*

Monday, Aug 01, 2022

Vocation is deeper than a job

Alphonsus Liguori is the patron saint of many things, including the work of laypeople. Even though he was a founder of a religious order, the Redemptorists, he was, of course, first a layperson himself—and one with a successful career. A lawyer who didn't lose a case for eight years straight, he still found time in his busy schedule to visit the terminally ill, which is how he discovered his true vocation and became a priest and leading theologian. Liguori might be the first to advise: Take a break from work to give back to the community and you might get your big break in finding your mission.

MEMORIAL OF ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP, FOUNDER, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 28:1-17; Matthew 14:13-21 (407). *"His heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick."*

Tuesday, Aug 02, 2022

Be present to the presence

Peter Julian Eymard, the French Catholic priest who founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, had a deep love and understanding of the Eucharist. "How kind is our Sacramental Jesus! He welcomes you at any hour of the day or night. His Love never knows rest," he said. "When you visit Him, He forgets your sins and speaks only of His joy, His tenderness, and His Love. By the reception He gives to you, one would think He has need of you to make Him happy." Take such words to heart as we begin the U.S. bishops' new Eucharistic Revival.

MEMORIAL OF PETER JULIAN EYMARD, PRIEST, FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14 (408). *"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."*

Wednesday, Aug 03, 2022

Let your life be one of service

Sor Isolina Ferré Aguayo, M.S.B.T., a Missionary Sister, died on this day in 2000 after a lifetime of service to the poor of her native Puerto Rico and New York. Known as the "Mother Teresa of Puerto Rico," Aguayo served people living on the margins and opened schools and resource centers throughout Puerto Rico and beyond. For her tireless work, she received 17 honorary degrees and more than 50 additional awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999, bestowed for "her passionate fight

against poverty, violence, and despair in Puerto Rico and Brooklyn, New York, where she worked to reconcile rival gangs in 1950-1960." In endowing the award, President Clinton said Sor Isolina taught people "to see the best in themselves and in their communities." May we all serve so well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:1-7; Matthew 15:21-28 (409). *"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."*

Thursday, Aug 04, 2022

Persistence is a virtue

Sometimes a vocation comes packaged with obstacles. Perhaps it is God's way of testing our resolve. In any case, John Vianney, born in revolutionary France in 1786, modeled persistence in his determination to become a priest. His religious training was disrupted by the anticlerical reign of terror unleashed during the French Revolution. Priests in hiding who risked their lives to administer the sacraments became Vianney's heroes, and once the church was reestablished, Vianney entered seminary. Today we know him as the patron saint of parish priests. May his story inspire us to overcome obstacles that keep us from our God-given vocation, whatever that might be.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 16:13-23 (410). *"You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."*

Friday, Aug 05, 2022

At home in a house church

Christians first gathered in homes, or "house churches," before there were dedicated religious buildings. Remember the "upper room" where the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit? It was likely one of the first house churches. As Christians were able to more freely express their faith, churches were built. One of the most historic and significant churches is the Basilica of Mary Major in Rome. It was built out of deep love of Mary and her significance in salvation history. It holds many important relics, works of art, and the sacred experiences of pilgrims since the fifth century. What is a church that has been especially meaningful for you?

MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF MARY MAJOR

TODAY'S READINGS: Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Matthew 16:24-28 (411). *"See, upon the mountains there advances the bearer of good news, announcing peace!"*

Saturday, Aug 06, 2022

Bury the bomb

On August 6, 1945 at 8:15 in the morning, an atomic bomb exploded above Hiroshima, Japan, dropped from an American B-29 bomber. In an instant some 70,000 souls were incinerated by the 10,000-degree fireball generated in the blast. By the end of the year, injury and radiation doubled the total number of deaths. Seventy-five years later, Pope Francis declared the use of atomic weapons, even the mere possession of such devices, to be immoral. Reflect on the transfigured Christ who stands in solidarity with the suffering and dead of all crimes against humanity.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Luke 9:28b-36 (614). *"While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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